

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1655
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012
PERSONS SUFFERING FROM AUTISM
Singh Shri Pashupati Nath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a rise in the cases of Autism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases reported, State/UT-wise alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the names of the Non-Governmental Organisations which have been provided financial assistance for the treatment of persons suffering from this disease alongwith the details of amount of financial assistance provided during the last three years; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government for providing better treatment to the persons suffering from this disease?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): Data on Autism, which is a neuro developmental disorder, is not maintained on a centralized basis.
(c): National Trust, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, runs several schemes like Samarth (Residential centre), Niramaya (Health Insurance Scheme), Aspiration (Day Care Center), Gyan Prabha (Scholarship Scheme), Uddyam Prabha (Interest Subsidy Scheme), Sahyogi (Caregivers Training Scheme), GHARAUNDA etc all over the country for the welfare of four disabilities i.e. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

The funds under all of the above schemes are provided for all four disabilities. Details of funds released is annexed.

(d):Autism is a neuro-developmental disability for which no cure or treatment is available. However, with early detection and intervention it can be managed. Therefore steps have been taken for creating awareness, diagnosis and early intervention.

Under the National Trust Act, 1999, a number of activities are undertaken like caregivers courses, training and public awareness programmes. Early Intervention Programmes are being conducted in collaboration with Voice and Mission, Mumbai, and by the State Nodal Agency Center of National Trust in Delhi in Govt. Hospitals. Awareness Programme is being conducted throughout the country by the registered organizations of the National Trust.

The Rehabilitation Council of India has given accreditation to Centres to run courses for training teachers in the management of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Government of India has adopted community based care of mentally ill persons under District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), a component of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). Under DMHP, a mental health team led by a psychiatrist is placed in a district to provide services, training to general health care personnel for identification and treatment of common mental illnesses and conduct IEC activities for awareness.

To address the shortage of qualified mental health professionals, manpower development schemes for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialties have been approved under the NMHP for the 11th Five Year Plan.